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A CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF THE
LUCILE ACUFF PERMIT REQUEST AREA
HAYWOOD COUNTY, TENNESSEE
A NEGATIVE FINDING REPORT

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
MEMPHIS DISTRICT

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JIMMY D. MCNEIL
STAFF ARCHEOLOGIST

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JANUARY 1990

ABSTRACT

On 25 January 1990, an intensive cultural resources survey was conducted by the Environmental Analysis Branch of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District along a 5,000 foot long portion of a proposed private levee near Poplar Creek in Haywood County, Tennessee. A pedestrian survey failed to locate any archeological, historical or architectural sites within the permit area. Thus, it is concluded that the proposed work will not have any impact on cultural resources within the permit area.

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MAPS

Map 1	Location Map
Map 2	Project Area

Introduction

An intensive cultural resources survey was conducted on 25 January 1990. The length and width of the proposed borrow area was walked over and shovel test units dug where required. The in-house literature search indicated no sites in the proposed permit area.

Study and Project Description

Ms. Lucile Acuff proposes to build a levee near Poplar Creek near Willis, Tennessee. The entire levee project is approximately 1 mile long. All the proposed area requires a 404 permit. The area requiring a permit is the only portion of the levee project surveyed (Map 1).

The levee permit area investigated extended 1524.4 meters (5,000 feet). The surveyed area contains 11.5 acres. The levee ends will terminate against a naturally raised area of land, thus, not requiring mechanical elevation.

Environmental Setting

The project area is located in the eastern lower Mississippi alluvial valley (Fisk 1944). The area is characterized by a series of low ridges and depressions of little relief. The ridges are the natural levees and the lowlands are abandoned channels formed by the meandering river and its tributaries.

The general area was under cultivation last year. Cotton and milo was grown last year. Dominant canopy species in the area are green ash (Fraxinus pennsylvanica var. subintegrifolia), red maple (Acer rubrum), and American elm (Ulmus americana). Common associates are sugarberry (Celtis laevigata), sweet gum (Liquidambar styraciflua), and white oak (Quercus alba). Other species include chestnut oak (Quercus prinus).

Various species of fauna were observed. Avifauna observed in the impact area included Carolina chickadee (Parus carolinensis), American crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos), common flicker (Colaptes auratus), American robin (Turdus migratorius), and Blue jay (Cyanocitta cristata), northern junco (Junco lyemalis), and horned lark (eremaphila alpestris).

Mammal signs observed in the area included raccoon (Procyon lotor) and white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus), eastern cottontail (Sylvilagus florida), fox squirrel (Sciurus niger), and gray squirrel (Sciurus carolinensis). Beaver (Castor canadensis) is a problem in and adjacent to the project area.

Results of the Records Search

In-house site records and the National Register of Historic Places were consulted. However, no cultural resources were recorded within the surveyed permit area.

Survey Methodology and Results

The proposed project area is approximately 11.5 acres in size. The area was partially covered with scattered cotton and milo plants; 70% of the ground surface was tillable. Shovel tests were placed at various spots along the length of the permit area. Each shovel test was approximately 50 cm deep. The soil profile showed swamp deposits and plow mixed soils. No artifacts or feature indicators were found in the shovel tests.

Recommendations

Based on an infield cultural resources survey and in-house background literature search, no evidence of prehistoric, historic or architectural resources exist

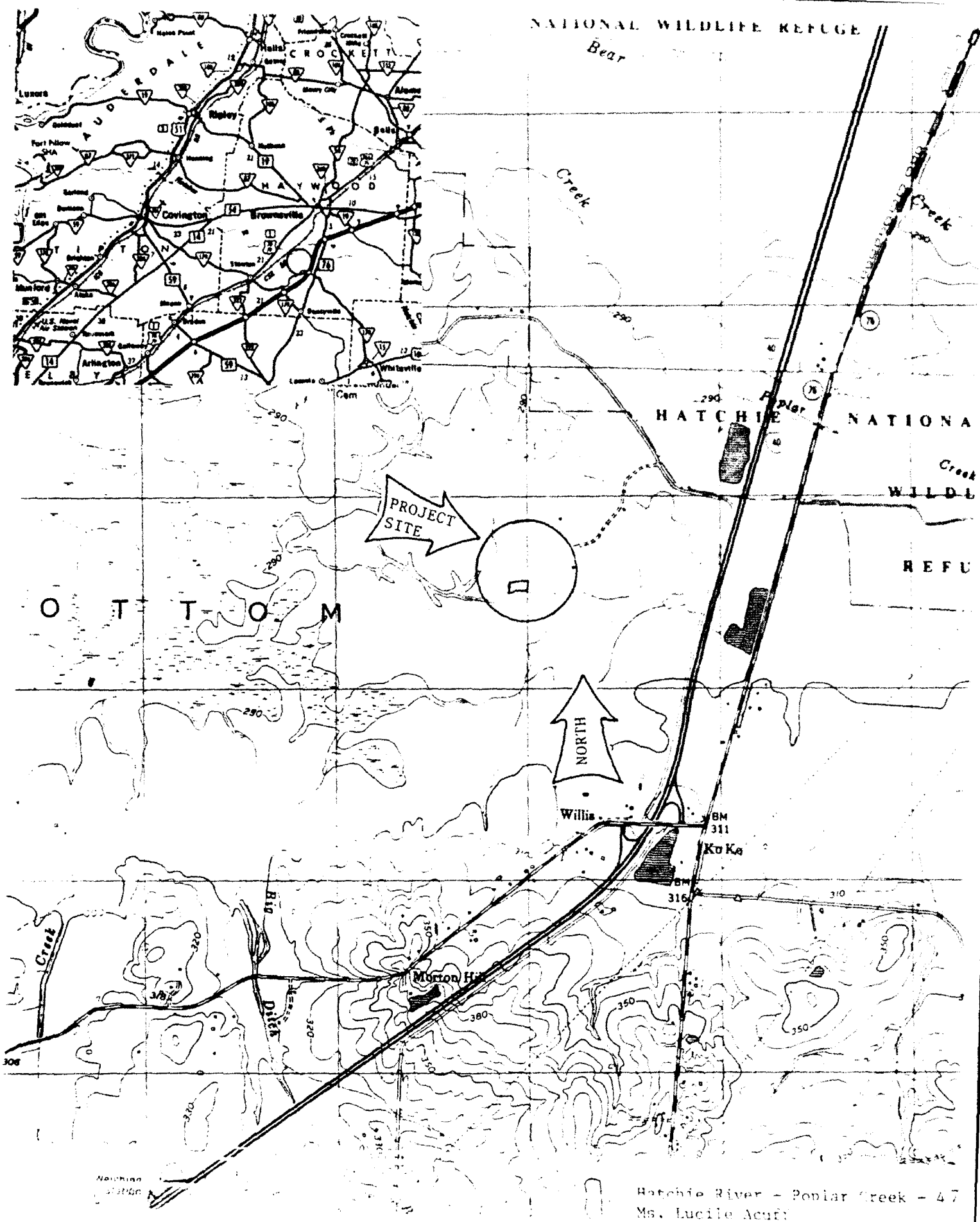
within the direct impact zone of the proposed permit area. It is, therefore, concluded that the proposed project will not have any impact on cultural resources within the permit area.

The survey methodology used does not eliminate the possibility of encountering deeply buried sites. Therefore, it is recommended that any site encountered during construction be protected from further damage until its significance can be determined by the Environmental Analysis Branch, Memphis District, Corps of Engineers in conjunction with the Tennessee Historical Commission.

Bibliography

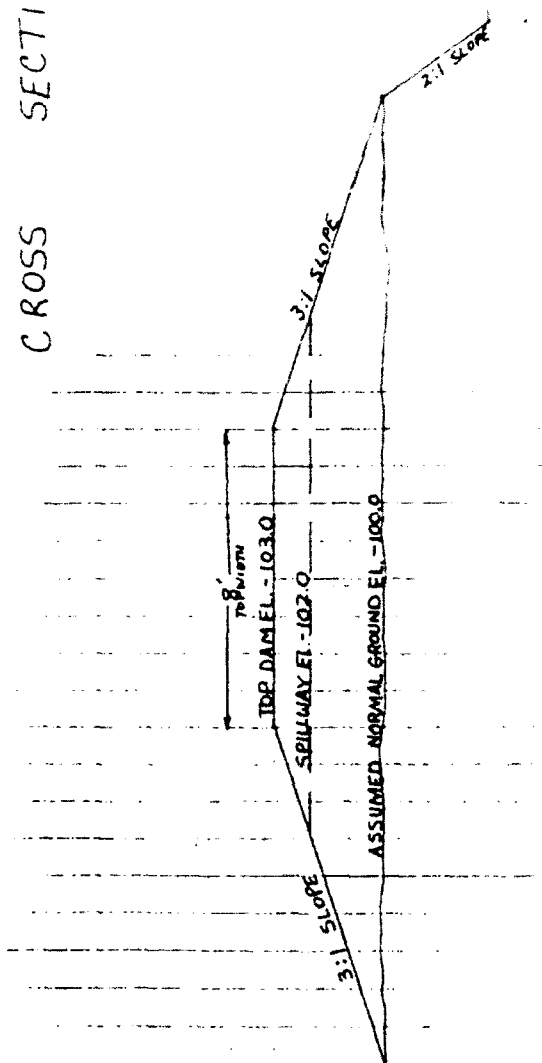
Fish, Harold N.

- 1944 Geological Investigations of the Alluvial Valley of the Lower Mississippi River. War Department, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi River Commission, Vicksburg, Mississippi.



Hatchie River - Poplar Creek - 47
Ms. Lucile Acuf

CROSS SECTION



NOTE: Top width and slopes are designed to be established to fence and maintain road

NOT TO SCALE

